wherein, when the source IP address is judged to be nonidentical with the stored source IP address, said controlling section notifies an authenticated managing computer of the source IP address which is judged to be nonidentical with the stored source IP address.

19. An intelligent interconnecting device according to claim 17,

wherein, when the source IP address is judged to be nonidentical with the stored source IP address, said controlling section notifies an authenticated managing computer of the source IP address which is judged to be nonidentical with the stored source IP address.

20. An intelligent interconnecting device according to claim 16,

wherein, when the source IP address is judged to be identical with the stored source IP address, said central controlling section judges whether or not the source IP address which is judged to be identical with the stored source IP address is within a valid period set in advance and permits communication thereafter between the external

apparatus having the source IP address which is judged to be within the predetermined valid period and the intelligent interconnecting device only when it is judged to be within the valid period.

21. An intelligent interconnecting device having a function of repeating a packet which is transmitted/received between a plurality of computers and being structured to be controllable by an external apparatus based on a TCP/IP protocol, the intelligent interconnecting device comprising:

a LAN trunk line interfacing section having an interface function with a LAN trunk line;

a port interfacing section having an interface function with a terminal connected thereto;

a storage section for storing a program and data therein; and

a central controlling section for controlling operations of said LAN trunk line interfacing section, said port interfacing section, and said storage section,

wherein said central controlling section executes the following steps:

a first step of causing the intelligent

interconnecting device to judge whether or not a first access to the intelligent interconnecting device from outside has occurred;

a second step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to carry out authentication processing by using a user identifier and a password based on the TCP/IP protocol when it is judged in the first step that the first access from outside has occurred;

a third step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge after the authentication processing in the second step whether or not authentication is given;

a fourth step of determining an authenticated external apparatus as an apparatus to be responded to thereafter by the intelligent interconnecting device and causing the intelligent interconnecting device to judge whether or not this access is the first access, when it is judged in the third step that the authentication is given;

a fifth step of causing the intelligent interconnecting device to extract and store a source IP address included in a packet which is received from the external apparatus in the authentication processing when this access of the